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loud and dreadful noise arose from the east \* \* In the midst of the noise a light fell on the earth from the sky \* \* The chieft officer of the village rode immediately to the spot 'and saw the place with his own eyes.' The land for about ten or twelve yards in length and breadth was so burned that not a blade of grass was found there. The ground was yet warm. He ordered it to be dug and the deeper it was dug the warmer the ground was found to be. At last a piece of iron appeared which was as hot as if it had just been taken out of a furnace." It was sealed in a bag and sent to the Emperor and was found to weigh 160 *tolas*, which, I believe, is about 66 pounds. Two swords, a knife and a dagger were made from it, by mixing three parts of the meteoric iron with one part of common iron; and the blades were excellent—"equal to the best tempered swords." E. S. H.

#### ANCIENT COMETS.

The following references have some value to a compiler of a Catalogue of Ancient Comets:—

"In 330 A. H. (941-2 A. D.) a comet made its appearance, the tail of which reached from the eastern to the western horizon. It remained in the heavens eighteen days \* \* \* " ELLIOT'S History of India, Vol. II, page 505. [This is probably either No. 309 or 310 of CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) of Comets; WILLIAMS' Chinese Comets, Nos. 54, 64.]

Thirteenth year of the reign of the Mogul Emperor JAHANGIR: "*Saturday, 17th Zi-l ka' da.* Several nights before this, a little before dawn, a luminous vapor, in the form of a column, had made its appearance, and every succeeding night it arose half an hour earlier than on the preceding night. When it had attained its full development, it looked like a spear (*or* like a porcupine), with the two ends thin, but thick about the middle. It was a little curved, like a reaping-sickle, with its back towards the south and its edge towards the north. On the date above mentioned it rose three hours before sunrise. The astronomers measured its size with their astrolabes and, on an average of different observations, it was found to extend 24 degrees. Its course was in the empyrean heaven, but it had a proper motion of its own, independent of that firmament, as it was retrograde—first appearing in the sign of the *Scorpion*, then in that of the *Scales*. Astrologers have written that it portends evil to the chiefs of Arabia. Allah only knows if this be true!

"Sixteen nights after its first appearance, a comet appeared in the same quarter, having a shining nucleus, with a tail in appearance about two or three yards long, but in the tail there was no light or splendor." [ELLIOT's History of India, Vol. VI, pages 363 and 406. This is probably Comet 1618, II. See also MALCOLM's Persia, Vol. I, page 359, foot-note. CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) No. 500 *q. v.*]

A. H. 237 = A. D. 857. "A great fiery meteor appeared in Askalan, which was for a long time suspended between heaven and earth." [CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) No. 276.]

A. H. 328 = A. D. 941. "Stars fell from the sky which appeared like birds of fire and which greatly terrified the people."

A. H. 442 = A. D. 1050. "A comet appeared." [See CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) No. 343.]

A. H. 836 = A. D. 1433. "A comet appeared." [See CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) No. 447.]

[The last four extracts are also from Sir HENRY ELLIOT's History of India, Vol. VIII, pages 31-36.]

A. H. 396 = A. D. 1015-16. "A comet made its appearance for fifteen nights successively and was as large as the Moon." [CHAMBERS' Catalogue (II) No. 330; *ibid.*, Vol. IV, page 171, note.]

E. S. H.

#### APPOINTMENTS IN THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. R. H. TUCKER, now of the National Observatory of the Argentine Republic, formerly of the DUDLEY Observatory, has been appointed Astronomer in the LICK Observatory from July 1; and Mr. C. D. PERRINE has been appointed Secretary of the Observatory from March 1, 1893.

E. S. H.

#### DISCUSSION OF PROFESSOR BARNARD'S OBSERVATIONS OF THE FIFTH SATELLITE OF JUPITER.

Professor BARNARD has printed all his observations of the fifth satellite of *Jupiter* in the *Astronomical Journal*. Professor H. S. PRITCHETT of Washington University, St. Louis, has undertaken the discussion of these observations and the determination of the orbit, so far as this year's work is sufficient.

E. S. H.